



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100
BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

July 24, 2018

Laurie S. Nehring, President
People of Ayer Concerned About the Environment (PACE)
35 Highland Avenue
Ayer, MA 01432

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Re: PFAS Impacts to Ayer Public Water Supply Wells,
Fort Devens Superfund Site, Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Nehring:

Thank you for your June 13, 2018, letter regarding the impacts of PFAS contamination in Devens and Ayer public water supplies from sources associated with the Fort Devens Superfund Site. In your letter, you describe the town's and Army's recent efforts to address this problem, and request that the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1, work with and support the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the Town of Ayer in pursuing more active engagement from the Army.

We had a productive meeting on June 15 with these parties, including the Town Manager for Ayer, Robert Pontbriand, and Mark Wetzel, the Ayer DPW Superintendent. Representatives from the Army and the Office of the Secretary of Defense also attended that meeting. Subsequent to that meeting, EPA New England hosted the first regional PFAS Community Engagement Event, where I heard you speak about your specific concerns for your community. At that event, we reiterated EPA's commitment to taking swift action to provide the regulated community and impacted people the tools and resources needed to address PFAS impacts to drinking water.

We understand the seriousness of the issues facing the residents of Ayer. To ensure that this issue is resolved as soon as possible, I sent a letter to Maureen Sullivan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Environment, Safety & Occupational Health on July 3, 2018 expressing that EPA's preference is that the Army move forward and execute agreements with Devens and Ayer to fund and support the towns' efforts to treat the impacted wells and to provide the public with safe drinking water. The letter requests notification to EPA of such agreements within 30 days, and states that EPA will pursue other options should Army not be able to reach agreements with Devens and Ayer. We hope that this letter demonstrates EPA's commitment and intention to support and work alongside MassDEP, Ayer, and MassDevelopment to achieve an outcome that results in safe drinking water and financial support to the people of Ayer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alexandra Dapolito Dunn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Alexandra Dapolito Dunn
Regional Administrator